

319. The method of claim 317, wherein said photocatalytic surface layer further comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd, Rh, Ru, Os and Ir.

Sub 7 320. The method of claims 312 or 313, wherein said composite further comprises a protective coating over the photocatalytic surface layer.

321. The method of claims 312 or 313, wherein said substrate comprises glass containing alkaline network modifier ions, and wherein said composite further comprises a film disposed between said substrate and said photocatalytic surface layer, said film preventing ions from diffusing from said substrate and photocatalytic surface layer.

322. The method of claims 312 or 313, wherein said substrate is a tile, a portion of the body of a motor vehicle, an inner panel of a building, or an outer panel of a building.

323. The method of claim 312, wherein the photocatalyst is subjected to photoexcitation by exposing the composite to sunlight or UV light having an intensity within the range from 0.001 to 1 mW/cm².

REMARKS

The application is amended to cancel claim 1 and add claims 301 through 323. Claims 301 through 311 are directed to a method of preventing or reducing fogging of the surface of a composite when the composite is subjected to humid conditions. Claims 312 through 323 are directed to a method for maintaining the surface of a composite in a clean state when the composite is subjected to deposits and contaminants in air and environmental precipitation (e.g., rain). Claims 301 through 323 are fully supported in the specification and do not add any new matter.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 as anticipated by each of the Field patent and JP-149281 to Okaniwa et al. Neither of these references discloses a method of preventing or

reducing fogging of the surface of a composite, or for maintaining the surface of a composite in a clean state, as required by claims 301 through 323 of the present application. For example, JP-149281 does not disclose a photocatalytic surface layer comprised of a photocatalyst and silica or silicone, as required by claims 301 through 323. The Field patent is directed to methods to produce a useful or visible image using hydrophobicity-hydrophilicity difference. Neither reference anticipates or renders obvious the methods of preventing or reducing fogging, or of maintaining a surface of a composite in a clean state, as described in claims 301 through 323 of the present application.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 1 based on the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,013,372. If the same rejection were applied to claims 301 through 323, Applicants would be amenable to submitting a terminal disclaimer to address the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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